

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action withdrawal of the outstanding Election Requirement.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Ms. Jaquelin Spong, at the June 27 personal interview. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Sumi (U.S. Patent 6,169,532). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Sumi discloses "determining whether the voltage output to the reading signal-line corresponds to a voltage responsive to the data signal supplied to the pixel electrode (col. 5, 10-40)" (Office Action, page 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

As discussed during the interview, the determination disclosed in Sumi, col. 5, lines 10-40 is not "whether the voltage output to a reading signal-line corresponds to a voltage responsive to the data signal," but rather is whether the image signals IMG included in predetermined numbers of frames are coincident with one frame by one. The image signals are produced by the control circuit which extracts them from the video signal (see col. 5, lines 13-15). The image signals are not voltages output to the reading-signal line from the pixel electrode. Therefore, the device disclosed in Sumi determines whether the data signal in one frame corresponds to the data signal in another frame, to thereby ascertain whether the image data corresponds to a still image or to a moving picture. As agreed to during the personal interview, this passage in Sumi does not deal with the pixel voltages output to a reading signal-line at all.

Sumi does disclose that a pixel voltage is output to a reading signal line, and is fed to a level modulator circuit having a comparator (see col. 5, lines 50-55). However, the comparator does not compare the voltage level of the pixel with the data signal. Instead, the comparator "compares the picture element voltage V_p charged in the capacitor 24b with the first or second reference voltage...in order to determine whether the picture element voltage is for displaying black or white" (see col. 6, lines 33-38). The level comparator circuit then outputs a black or white re-writing voltage to update or refresh the pixel voltage.

Therefore, the comparator in Sumi determines whether the picture element voltage is for displaying black or white, but does not determine "whether the voltage output to the reading signal-line corresponds to a voltage responsive to the data signal" as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 2 and 8. Therefore, Sumi does not disclose all the subject matter recited in claims 1, 2 and 8.

Claim 7 recites, in part, "an output terminal, arranged at an end of the control circuit opposite to the input terminal, that outputs a voltage of the reading signal-line." The Office Action identifies the control circuit as element 14 in Fig. 1 of Sumi, and the output terminal as SDO. This output terminal, although it is arranged at an end of the control circuit opposite to the input terminal, does not output a voltage of the reading signal line. Instead, the line SDO is the driver off signal, not the reading signal line. SDO is identified in col. 5, lines 34-35 and lines 39-40. As agreed to during the personal interview, this feature of the output terminal arranged at an end of the control circuit opposite to the input terminal that outputs a voltage of the reading signal-line, as recited in claim 7, and similarly recited in claim 15 is not disclosed in Sumi.

Based on the above, and as agreed to during the personal interview, Sumi does not disclose each of the features of independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 15. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 2, claims 9-14 depend from claim 8, and claim 16 depends from claim 15. Therefore, claims 3-6, 9-14 and 16 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to

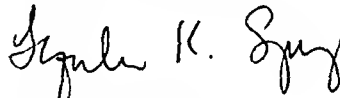
independent claims 2, 8 and 15, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, all of claims 1-16 recite patentable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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